

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A pellet to be used in a multi-layer laminate for storing liquid foods, comprising a hydrophilic reducing organic compound and a hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin, wherein the hydrophilic reducing organic compound is included in the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin and the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin provides an oxygen gas barrier for the hydrophilic reducing organic compound and wherein the pellet is prepared by:

kneading the hydrophilic reducing organic compound and the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin compound at a temperature not higher than the melting temperature or decomposition point of the hydrophilic reducing organic compound and equal to or higher than the melting temperature of the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin to form a kneaded compound;

kneading the kneaded compound comprised of the hydrophilic reducing organic compound and the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin compound with the hydrophobic thermoplastic resin so that the kneaded compound is dispersed in the hydrophobic thermoplastic resin; and

forming a pellet from the hydrophobic thermoplastic resin containing the dispersed kneaded compound wherein 50 grams of pellet when stored at 15° C for one week in a sealed 180 ml container requires the presence of water in order to absorb oxygen..

25. (Previously Presented) The pellet of claim 24, in which the hydrophilic reducing organic compound is present in the range of 0.05 ~ 10% by weight, the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin is present in the range of 3 ~ 40% by weight, and the hydrophobic thermoplastic resin is present in the range of 50 ~ 96% by weight.

26. (Previously Presented) The pellet of claim 24, in which the hydrophilic reducing organic compound is a compound selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acids, polyphenols and catechins.

27. (Previously Presented) The pellet of claim 24, in which the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin is ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer, polyvinyl alcohol having a saponification degree of 95% or higher, or polyamide resin.

28. (Previously Presented) The pellet of claim 24, in which the hydrophobic thermoplastic resin comprises polyolefin resin.

29. (Currently Amended) A pellet to be used in a multi-layer laminate for storing liquid foods, comprising a hydrophilic reducing organic compound, a porous inorganic compound and a hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin, wherein the hydrophilic reducing organic compound is included in the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin and the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin provides an oxygen gas barrier for the hydrophilic reducing organic compound and wherein the pellet is prepared by:

kneading the hydrophilic reducing organic compound, the porous inorganic compound and the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin compound at a temperature not higher than the melting temperature or decomposition point of the hydrophilic reducing organic compound and equal to or higher than the melting temperature of the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin to form a kneaded compound;

kneading the kneaded compound comprised of the hydrophilic reducing organic compound, the porous inorganic compound and the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin compound with the hydrophobic thermoplastic resin so that the kneaded compound is dispersed in the hydrophobic thermoplastic resin; and

forming a pellet from the hydrophobic thermoplastic resin containing the dispersed kneaded compound wherein 50 grams of pellet when stored at 15° C for one week in a sealed 180 ml container requires the presence of water in order to absorb oxygen.

30. (Previously Presented) The pellet of claim 29, in which the hydrophilic reducing organic compound is present in the range of 0.05 ~ 10% by weight, the porous inorganic compound is present in the range of 0.05 ~ 10% by weight, the hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin is present in the range of 3 ~ 40% by weight, and the hydrophobic thermoplastic resin is present in the range of 40 ~ 96% by weight.

31. (Previously Presented) The pellet of claim 29, in which the porous inorganic compound comprises synthetic zeolite.

32. - 37 (Canceled)